

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 CPR-01 USIE-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 /044 W

-----091344Z 095192 /43

O 091245Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8060

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 5739

ABIDJAN FOR LINDSTROM - COM CONFERENCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, US, KE

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT OF KENYATTA TO MIDEASTFOR FLAGSHIP

1. PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER IN MOMBASA HAS INDICATED TO EMBASSY'S PORT LIAISON OFFICER THAT PRESIDENT KENYATTA WOULD LIKE TO PAY VISIT TO USS LASALLE, MIDDLE EAST FORCE FLAGSHIP CURRENTLY IN PORT IN MOMBASA. LIKELY TIME OF VISIT WILL BE 1200 LOCAL TIME MAY 10 (0900Z). THIS WOULD BE FIRST TIME KENYATTA HAS EVER VISITED NAVAL WARSHIP OF ANY COUNTRY; AS SUCH IT IS LIKELY TO EVOKE CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL INTEREST IN SAME WAY AS USMC FLY-PAST DID LAST DECEMBER. IT APPEARS THAT KENYATTA'S PURPOSE IN VISITING SHIP IS PRECISELY TO EMPHASIZE CLOSE U.S.-KENYA SECURITY RELATIONSHIP.

2. ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE GESTURE OF THIS TYPE IS USEFUL AT THIS JUNCTURE IN CONTEXT OF OUR POLICY TOWARD HORN OF AFRICA, SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT OF WHICH IS STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH KENYA. IN ANY EVENT, THERE IS NO WAY WE COULD DISCOURAGE PRESIDENT FROM VISITING SHIP WITHOUT SEVERELY DAMAGING BILATERAL RELATIONS. SHIP
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IS PIERSIDE AND HAS BEEN SURVEYED BY KENYATTA'S PROTECTIVE SECURITY PERSONNEL, WHO HAVE JUDGED IT SAFE AND FEASIBLE FOR HIM TO COME ABOARD.

3. CHIEF OF STAFF OF MIDDLE EAST FORCE CAPT. ALLEN SMITH, WHO IS SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER PRESENT, WILL WELCOME KENYATTA ABOARD. ACCORDING PROVINCIAL

COMMISSIONER, PROTOCOL ORDINARILY WOULD DEMAND PRESENCE OF SENIOR U.S. DIPLOMAT IN COUNTRY. I THEREFORE PLAN TO BE ABOARD LASALLE MORNING MAY 10 TO GREET KENYATTA.

4. UNLESS DEPARTMENT DESIRES SPECIFIC POINTS TO BE MADE TO KENYATTA DURING VISIT, I PROPOSE TO CONFINE MY REMARKS TO WELCOME AND PLEASANTRIES. VISIT IS EXPECTED TO BE BRIEF WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT TOUR OF SHIP.

5. FYI, AS OF MID-AFTERNOON MAY 9, EMBASSY TELEPHONES ARE NOT WORKING. CHARGE MAY BE CONTACTED AFTER 1500Z AT HOME, TEL. 61485. ALTERNATIVE PHONE IS POL COUNSELOR KAMMAN, TEL. 582235.

6. AFTER FOREGOING WAS DRAFTED, CHARGE AND POL COUNSELOR WERE SUMMONED TO MFA BY PERMANENT SECRETARY NGANGA, WHO ASKED WHETHER VISIT TO SHIP FEASIBLE. HE WAS INFORMED THAT WE ARE REPORTING VISIT TO WASHINGTON, THAT CHARGE WILL BE PRESENT, AND THAT WE FORSEE NO PROBLEMS IN RECEIVING VISIT. WE ASSURED HIM THAT LASALLE ACCUSTOMED TO RECEIVING CHIEFS OF STATE AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE PROPER PROTOCOL HONORS TO KENYATTA.
BROWN

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Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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